

STUDY LEADER NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOLIVAR

MAKING HOLIDAY PLANS

I know many of our Core Discipleship Groups (Sunday morning and weekday) are making plans for the holidays. Let me give you a few quick reminder as we head into the Christmas and the New Year.

First, please place your Core Discipleship Groups holiday fellowship on the church calendar, even if it is not being held at the church. This is very helpful for the following reasons. First, it places your Core Discipleship Groups in a location where others can know about. This helps others in our church family avoid conflicts when they are planning. It also places your fellowship gathering in the opportunities for the week, which will help remind “forgetful” group members.

As you plan for a holiday fellowship for your Core Discipleship Group remember to invite everyone. If your class has associate members (the names at the bottom of your role with ***), do not forget to invite those serving in other Core Discipleship Groups that are a part of your group. You might also think about asking group members to bring a prospect friend to the fellowship. An invitation is a great way to express care and interest in members who are serving and friends who would enjoy being a part of the group.

Make a place to Connect together in worship this Christmas. Our church will have two Christmas Eve services. The first will be at 5:00 pm in the worship center and the second will be at the Esquire Theater at 6:30 pm. Then on Christmas morning at 10:00 am is a combined family worship. There will be no Sunday Core Discipleship or Child Care on Christmas morning, December 25th. There will also be no worship Sunday evening as well.

On January 1 we will have Sunday Core Discipleship Groups and our regular worship services, but no Sunday Evening. If you are going to be out of town, please make plans to have someone teach in your place.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

12/04/2011

In this issue:

Making Holiday Plans	1
Just for Adult Leaders	1
Discipleship Ministry Team	2
Three Reasons Parties Fail	2

Special points of interest:

- * WWW.FCBOLIVAR.ORG
- * WWW.LIFEWAY.COM
- * WWW.YOUVERSION.COM

JUST FOR LEADERS

We are making a change in the way we put together the Adult Core Discipleship Group quarterly literature order. Next week attached to your roll sheet will be a listing of what is currently ordered for your group. There will be a space provided to mark any changes that you would like for next quarter.

Then when the literature order arrives we will use the list of what you order to help make the adjusting order if needed.

This change should make it easier to manage, order, sort and deliver our adult literature. If you have any questions or would like to explore other literature options for your group please contact Larry Stehr in the church office or email him at lstehr@fcbolivar.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BOLIVAR

316 N Main
PO Box 358
Bolivar, MO 65613

Tel: 417-326-2431
Fax: 417-326-4706

E-mail: lstehr@fcbolivar.org

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Discipleship Ministry Team has been working to strengthen our Core Discipleship Groups (ongoing Sunday and Weekday groups), our FBC University (short term group studies) and our new member assimilation process. There is even more planned for 2012.

Which brings me to the issues of leadership. To be honest we just need more of it. I pray every Core Discipleship Group (Sunday morning and weekday) has a plan to enlist a

co-leader to disciple in leadership for your group. We need members who are willing to pray and learn about leading a FBC University small group. Everyone needs to take the simple steps of serving a class greeter, new member assimilator and friendly guest contactor. Reaching a significant number of new people for Christ in 2012 will be a prayer team effort involving new faces in the discipleship process.

I hope you are praying about helping new faces move into discipleship as a leader in 2012.

Rick Howerton's Blog

12.02.2011

Three Reasons Small Group Christmas Parties Fail

A small group Christmas party happens once a year. The annual Christmas party is the optimal time to create memories that bonds a group forever. We don't want to waste the moment so it's important that we avoid anything that makes it a failure. Below you'll find a few things that cause a Small Group Christmas party to fail. Avoid them if at all possible.

1. Not calendaring the Christmas party far in advance. The Christmas party won't be effective if the entire group is not in attendance and the Christmas season is a very busy time. If you don't calendar the Christmas party as far in advance as possible, some group members' schedules will fill up and you'll be unable to find a date that will work for everyone.
2. Not actually partying. All too often small group leaders feel the obligation to make the primary experience a Bible study each time the group gets together. It's not only okay to simply play games, watch a Christmas movie, exchange Dirty Santa gifts, etc... the night the group has it's annual Christmas party, it's important to. For sure, end the evening with prayer requests and reading the story of Christ's birth from Scripture, but on this particular evening, create a relaxed and playful environment most of the evening.
3. Making it too big a deal. Sometimes groups determine they want to make their Christmas party an event for the socially elite. People are expected to dress up, the meal demands every household bring massive amounts of their most alluring recipe, and everyone is to pick up a very special gift. The Christmas season is a very busy time of year. If group members have to rush home from work, cook a special dish or two, pick up a gift, and dress up, they'll be too exhausted (or bitter) to enjoy the evening. If you're going to create a Hollywood style experience either do the party on a Saturday or minimize the expectations.

Copied from <http://blogs.navpress.com/rickhowerton/My-Blog/December-2011/Three-Reasons-Small-Group-Christmas-Parties-Fail>